

DARE TO HOPE: Serve

August 9, 2026

Message Summary.

Hope is confidence in God's faithfulness even when life is difficult. Hope becomes outward action. People of hope serve because Jesus served us first, which transforms us into people of greater character and fulfills God's purpose for our lives. We become people whose answer to God is always, "Yes."

Key Scripture Summaries.

Lamentations 3:21-23 | Hope grows when we remember God's faithful love and His mercies that are new every morning.

Matthew 20:26-28 | Greatness is found in serving others, not being served.

John 13:3-15 | Jesus washes His disciples' feet, giving every believer an example of humble service.

James 1:17 | Every good gift comes from God, making us stewards rather than owners.

1 Peter 4:10 | God has uniquely gifted every believer to serve others faithfully.

Start Talking.

1. What's the most meaningful act of service someone has ever done for you?
2. Have you ever volunteered or served somewhere and it ended up blessing you more than the people you were serving?
3. When you hear the phrase "People of hope serve," what comes to mind?

Start Thinking.

- Why do you think Jesus chose to wash His disciples' feet?
- Why is serving often difficult in a culture that celebrates comfort and convenience?
- What's the difference between attending church as a consumer versus participating as a servant?
- Why do you think serving changes the person doing the serving?
- How does remembering God's faithfulness give us courage to serve others?

Start Sharing.

1. Which part of this week's message challenged or encouraged you the most?

2. Where have you seen "hope turns inward assurance into outward action" become true in your own life?
3. Do you tend to approach church more like someone asking, "What can I receive?" or "How can I serve?" Why?
4. Which of the three reasons for serving spoke to you most?
 - Jesus is our example.
 - Serving makes us better.
 - God made us to serve.
5. What gifts, abilities, experiences, or opportunities has God given you that could be used to serve others?
6. The sermon challenged us to pray, "Lord, the answer is yes. Now what's the question?" What emotions does that prayer bring up for you?
7. Where might God be inviting you to serve this week (at home, at work, in your neighborhood, or at church)?

Start Praying.

Father, thank You for serving us first through Jesus. Thank You for Your mercy new every morning and for the hope we have because of Your faithfulness. Help us become people whose hope leads to action. Show us where You want us to serve, give us willing hearts, and use our lives to help others find and follow Jesus. May our answer always be, "Yes." In Jesus' name, Amen.

Start Doing.

- Read John 13:1-17 and reflect on Jesus' example of servant leadership.
- Pray each morning this week: "Lord, the answer is yes. Now what's the question?"
- Perform one intentional act of service each day without expecting recognition.
- Ask God to reveal one place where He wants you to begin serving consistently.
- Encourage someone who faithfully serves behind the scenes and thank them.

